(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Airlines like Alia (Jordanian Airlines), *Austrian Airlines (Austria)*, *Iberia* (Spain), Turkish (Turkey), JAT (Yugoslavia) and Interflug (East Germany) have evinced interest to fly to India. Routes etc., will be discussed at the time of airline talks.

(c) and (d) Air India have plans to introduce twice weekly A-310 services to Stockholm in January, 1987 as an extension of their current service to Moscow subject to me clearance by Scandanavian authorities.

Arbitration of foreign shipping companies disputes in India

1531. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a proposal to undertake arbitration on disputes with foreign shipping companies in India and not in London; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Helicopter Corporation of India

1532. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 717 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Helicopter Corporation of India has started functioning; and

(b) if so, the areas likely to be covered by it and the details of its functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Yes, Sir.

(b) In tune with its objectives, the main functions of the Helicoptor Corporation of India can be divided into the following categories:—

(i) to provide helicopter based air transportation support to the petroleum Sector; and

(ii) to provide scheduled/non-scheduled services in the inaccessible areas and hilly terrains, intra-city transportation and tourist charters etc.

The operational activities of the Helicopter Corporation of India will be spread all over the country.

Aircraft in place of Kanishka

1533. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1718 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to select an aircraft to replace Boeing 747 Kanishka which was destroyed in the crash last year and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air India is in the process of selection of an aircraft to replace 'Kanishka'. Enquiries have been floated in this regard.

Entrusting art objects to experts

1534. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers who carry rare art objects to

foreign countries are not experts and are not well conversant with the methods of keeping and preserving antiques; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India would take care to send abroad experts only so that such rare objects are not damaged in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Art objects sent to foreign countries are invariably accompanied by persons who are well conversant with their job in regard to security, packing and transport of works of art. However, despite all possible precautions, it is not possible to foresee as to what might happen during loading, unloading and transit of the objects.

DTC concessional pass

1535. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students of private vocational institutes of Delhi have been allowed the facility of concessional passes of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC);

(b) whether it is also a fact that such facility has been denied to the students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Working of computerised reservation at New Delhi

1536. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any improvement has been made with the introduction of computers for making reservations at the Northern Railways, New Delhi, reservation office;

(b) what is the number of times the computers went out of order since their installation; and

(c) what are the reasons for unsatisfactory working of the computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

Output of the booking staff has increased from 90 transactions per operator per shift in manual system to about 150 transactions in the computerised system. As a result, the average waiting time of passengers during peak summer rush period has come down from 90 minutes to 25 minutes. In normal periods, the average waiting period is only about 5—10 minutes.

(b) Since 1-1-1986, computerised reservations were affected due to system failures on nineteen occasions for an average duration of about 1hr. 30 minutes.

(c) So far, the working of the system has not been found to be unsatisfactory. Of the 19 failures which have occurred so far, 11 were due to lack of experience of staff working on the system, 6 due to minor hardware problems and only 2 due to major hardware failures.